

A
DECLARATION

IN

Answer to several lying Pamphlets
concerning the Witch of

W A P P I N G.

B E I N G

A more perfect Relation of the Arraign-
ment, Condemnation, and Suffering of Jone
Peterfon, who was put to death on Munday the
12 of *April*, 1652.

S H E W V I N G

The Bloudy Plot and wicked Conspiracy
of one *Abraham Vandenberghe*, *Thomas Crompton*,
Thomas Collet, and others.



L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year, 1652.



W. O. W.

W. O. W. W. O. W.



*A Declaration, In answer to severall lying
Pamphlets concerning the witch of Wapping.*



He said *Abraham Vandenbemde* with o-
ther the said confederates (having
laid a Plot to take away the life of
Mrs. Anne Levingston, because the La-
dy *Powel* had given her an estate which
some of them expected) in *December*
last repaired to one *Jone Simpson*, and
proffered her 10 l. in hand, and 500 l.
more in *Hillary* term following, if she would swear that
Mrs. Levingston had used sorcery & withcraft to take away
the Lady *Powels* life. And on the 10 of *Jan.* then following,
one *Anne Hook* (who pretends her self to be a cunning
woman) being imployed by the said confederates, did per-
swade her thereunto, offering her six score pounds, and half
the money which the said *Vandenbemde* and the said *Crompton*
were to give her and her husband for making their Affi-
davits, if she would do the like. But the said *Simpson* ab-
hominating so wicked a practice, to take away an innocent
Gentlewomans life, discovered the Plot; for which conspi-
racies of the said confederates, a speciall Supplicavit was
granted out, of Chancery, to bind them to the good beha-
viour

viour, and other legal prosecutions are still depending against them. But the said confederates not resting there (in further prosecution of the Plot) did imploy the afore-said *Hook*, to procure witnesses to swear what they desired: who accordingly about *January* last came to the above-named *Jone Peterson*, at her house in *Spruce Island* near *Wapping*, and there made offer of 100*l.* to her, to swear, that the said *Mrs. Livingston* had received from her (the said *Peterson*) certain powders, and bags of seeds, to help her in her law suits, and to provoke unlawfull love (as the said *Jone Peterson* did affirm before her triall.) But she refusing to do the same, the said confederates to prevent the punishment, which justly and vnavoidably must have befallen them, in case the said *Peterson* should have revealed this their practice, as *Simpson* (before) had done the other, they lay a new design, to anticipate the same, as followeth.

On the 7th of *March* last, the said confederates came to *Wapping*, and got a warrant from one *Mr. Waterton* a Justice of the Peace, to apprehend the said *Petersons* person, and to search her house for Images of Clay, Hair, & Nails, which accordingly they did; but upon strict search and diligent inquiry could find no such thing; whereupon the said confederates carried her before the said Justice, to have her examined where the said *Vandenbemde, Collet* (their Solicitor) and two or three other persons whom they brought with them, sate at the table as the Justices Clerks to take her examination, where the said Justice examined the said *Peterson* upon oath (contrary to law) concerning her using of witchcraft and sorcery to take away the life of the *Lady Powel of Chelsey*. To which she answered, that she never used sorcery or Witch-craft, neither had she ever heard of the *Lady Powel*, saving that not long before one *Anne Hook*

(an Irish woman) came to her with one Goodwife *Garland* to have perswaded her to have made such an oath against *Mrs. Levingston*, as she the said *Hook* her self before had done, as the said *Jone Peterson* likewise did affirm before her death. Whereupon the said Justice (contrary to law) gave order to search her, which was done; but the searchers could find nothing on her body which might create the least suspicion in them of her being a witch; whereupon the said Justice took bayl for her appearance at the next Sessions. And on the 14 of *March* following (being the Sabbath day) was by the said confederates means, again apprehended, and examined a new, about the said *Lady Powels* death. And the Argument which they then made use of to perswade the said *Peterson* to confess, was, that she needed not fear what she confessed, for it was not her life they aimed at, but to have matter whereby to accuse one *Mrs. Levingston*, who had gotten the said *Lady Powels* estate, and thereby had undone 36 Persons of the said *Ladies* Kindred: And then told her, that they were shortly to question the said *Mrs. Levingstone* for the same, either in the *Parliament* house, or before a Committee (as the said *Jone Peterson* did likewise affirm before her death.) Whereunto the said *Jone Peterson* replied, that she never knew, nor heard of the said *Lady Powell*, otherwise as aforesaid; And that she had not heard from the said *Mrs. Levingstone* for above a yeare before that time: Then they caused her (contrary to Law) to be searched againe in a most unnaturall & Barbarous manner, by fower women whom they themselves for that purpose had brought along with them, on of which women told the Justice that there was a Teat * of flesh in her secret parts more then other women usually had, whereupon the said Justice committed her first to New-prison and

* Note that this Teat upon the view of the Physicians was the day before her.

her death found to be natural & lesse then in many other Women, & the said Physicians also affirmed that she was then quick with child.

* Note, That Sir Jo. Danvers, Mr. Snape, Mr. Winstanley, and Mrs Waterton Justice. of the Peace were with the confederates at a Tavern near Hicks-hall, consulting when the Bill of Indictment was preparing, and that Sir John Danvers came and dined at the Sessions house and had much private discourse with the Recorder and many of the Justices and came and sate upon the Bench at her Trial, where he hath seldome or never been for these many years.

and from thence to Newgate, where she was left to the ordering and mercy of one Brooks, a Keeper there, and an Agent of the said confederates.

On Munday the 5th. of April instant, two Bills of indictment were preferred against her at Hicks-hall, * and found by the Grand-Jury, upon which indictments upon the 6th. of April, she was arraigned before Mr. Recorder (who is of Council for the conspirators,) and on the 7 of Apr. she was tried; at which triall the said confederates (who before had spent three weeks time at Wapping in procuring witnesses) were present, with three Councellors to prosecute the said Peterson. Then the Court proceeded upon the first indictment, which was for bewitching the Lady Powel to death; whereupon many women persons of mean degree (and of ill fame and reputation) were produced against her, and interrogated by the said Council, according to the Briefs delivered unto them, wherein were all the witnesses testimonies, written before hand. And being asked what she had to say for her self? (upon her knees) she took God to witnesse that she never knew the Lady Powel nor the house where she dwelt, nor was any wise guilty of her death; and delivered a paper of such witnesses as she had to defend her, desiring that they might be called, whereupon Dr. Bates, and Dr. Colledon Physicians, together with Mr. Stamford, and Mr. Page Chy-
rurgians

rurgians, and divers other persons of good quality, testified the disease, manner of sickness, and the cause of the said Ladies death, which were the Dropfie, the Scurvey, and the yellow Jaundies, and that they wondred how she was able to live so long, having most of those diseases growing on her for many years before; amongst which evidences the innocency of (*Mrs. Levingstone*) formerly by the confederates maliciously aspersed and bespattered, was now fully vindicated, to their great astonishment, trouble, and disgrace.

Then the Court proceeded to the other Indictment, which was for bewitching one *Christopher Wilson* (who doth not himself complain of any such thing, but the Confederates only :) and the only material evidence that then was against her, was one *Margaret Austin* (who had formerly been a wandering person, but was in charity taken up, relieved, and kept, by the said *Jone Peterson*, until shee perceived that the said *Austin* had purloined some of her goods out of her house,) and two Witnesses more; the substance of whose Testimony was as followeth. That the said *Wilson*, having been a long time sick, and hearing that the said *Peterson* had done good to many, sent for her to come to him, who accordingly did : and administred meanes for his Recovery, which at first was conceived to do him good; But he afterwards relapsed, and the reason that was urged to induce the Court and Jury to believe that he was Bewitched, was, that during his sickness, shee sent to him for monyes for her Phisick ; to whom Answer was returned that he could then send her none. Whereupon it was then deposed, that shee did reply, that he had better have sent her monies, for he should be 10 times worse then ever was; And that afterwards he became very ill again, and remained languishing. Many other witnesses were produced, but could only swear to generallities, hear-says, and most absurd

furd and ridiculous imperrinences : then being by the Court demanded what she could say for her selfe ? she desired that such Witnesses as she had then there present, might be called (some of which durst not appeare because that the said Mr. *Waterton*, (as the witnesses them selves, doe and will affirme) had threatned to send them to *Newgate*, if they did appeare.) Whereupon severall witnesses were called, and being demanded what they could say for the Prisoner, they began to tell, that they had knowne her a long time, and that she had done many Cures, and much good amongst the Neighboures, but never knew that she did any ill; But the Officers of the Court interrupted them, saying (in a taunting manner) *are you for a Witch ? and is this all you can say ?* and so turned severall of them away before they could be further heard. Then one came to the Court (a Stranger to the prisoner) and offered to depose, that one in black, called *Thomas Southwick* (knowne to be servant to *Thomas Cromton* another of the confederats) stood in the Sessions yard, offering money to strangers there, to come in and swear) that the said *Peterson* was a Witch, and amongst the rest offered to give her mony if she would doe the same, but he being called for, could not be had, nor would appeare, although Colonell *Okay*, and some other Justices upon the Bench, desired the Recorder to take notice of it, and to give Order that the said *Thomas Southwick* might be brought into Court. Whereupon the Jury went forth, and brought in their verdicts, that the said *Peterson* was not guilty upon the first Indictment of bewitching the Lady *Powell* to death ; But found her guilty upon the second, for which she was then cast, and the next day condemned to dye as a witch, And after that the said confederates and their agents went very often to her promising her a Reprieve or Pardon if she would confesse that

that Mrs. *Levingstone* had Employed her to make away the life of the Lady *Powell*, to which she replied she could not, because it was altogether false. But one of the said confederates urging her againe to say something against Mrs. *Levingstone*, she told him he was a rogue, and gave him a blow on the face, which made his nose bleed: Where it is to be noted, that what for love of money they could not tempt her to, they resolved at last for love of her life to force her to, by necessitating her either unjustly to confesse a notorious falsehood against the said Mrs. *Levingstone* or else to dye without mercy or Reprieve, which otherwise was proffered her by the said Confederates, to make her unjust in doing the same.

On the 12 day the said *Jone Peterson* (being brought to the place of Execution) was by the Ordinary nine or ten times earnestly pressed to confesse something against the said Mrs. *Levingstone*: Whereupon the Executioner told the Ordinary, he might be ashamed to trouble a dying woman so much, to which he replied, he was commanded so to doe, and durst doe no otherwise And afterwards the said Ordinary still insisting in his discourse, and very often pressing the said *Peterson* to confesse and discharge her conscience before God and the world; she answered that she had already confessed before the Bench, all she had to confesse; that she had made her peace with God; and therefore desired to dye in quiet, for now she was to appeare before God who presently would Judge her, and that God was witnes, that she dyed Innocently, and was in no wise guilty of what was laid to her charge, and that she hoped he would freely forgive her all her sins, and to this effect she still replied to his frequent importunities: And having gone to prayers, she shewed her selfe very attentive and penitent, and after Prayer called to sing the 25th Psalm, which she performed very Christianly and cheerfully, and so died, &c.

*The Copy of a Certificate under the bands of
severall Doctors of Physicke & Chirurgions
concerning the death of the Lady Powell.*

October the 8. 1651.

*In the Body of the Lady Powell, who dyed the
seventh of this instant, was observed,*

The Skin universally discovered Yellow.

The Belly swolne very much, the Thighs also and Legs.

*The Cavity of the Abdomen possessed with yellowish obscure
water, the quantity whereof not much above one Gallon and an
half.*

The Stomack and Guts not disaffected, nor the Kidnies.

*The Pancreas cancerous in part, some part being degenerated
into a feculent matter; like Amurca or dregs of oyle, yet con-
tained in a Ciste.*

*The Liver larger then it ought, black; of an unequal schir-
rous or rather Cancerous substance, exangues.*

*The Spleen joyned with the left part of the hollow of the liver,
as if they were one body, very black, and hard outwardly, in-
wardly rotten.*

*The Gall large and full, but of a deeper Yellow, inclined to
red and black matter.*

In

(11)

In the cavity of the Breast or Thorax water of the same substance and colour near a Gallon:

The Lungs something thicker and more discoloured then usual.

The heart well.

The Bones very easily broken.

Colladon.

George Bate.

Goddard.

George Chabrey.

Physicians.

Charles Stamford

Thomas Page.

Chirurgians.

Besides the Apothecaries, and several other persons, who testified the same And are still ready to do the like.

Coll. Okey, Coll. Berkstead, and divers other Justices of the Peace, both at Hixes hall, and at the old Baley, did declare themselves that they were not satisfied either with the proceedings, or proof against this Peterson, that she was guilty of witchcraft, but that there was a design in it, relating to the prejudice of Mrs. Levingstone, which they are ready to testify to the Parliament when they shall be required thereunto.

FINIS.

*The Copy of a Certificate under the bands of
severall Doctors of Physicke & Chirurgions
concerning the death of the Lady Powell.*

October the 8. 1651.

*In the Body of the Lady Powell, who dyed the
seventh of this instant, was observed,*

The Skin universally discovered Yellow.

The Belly swolne very much, the Thighs also and Legs.

*The Cavity of the Abdomen possessed with yellowish obscure
water, the quantity whereof not much above one Gallon and an
half.*

The Stomack and Guts not dissaffected, nor the Kidnies.

*The Pancreas canceorus in part some part being degenerated
into a feculent matter; like Amurca or dregs of oyle, yet con-
tained in a Ciste.*

*The Liver larger then it ought, black; of an unequal schir-
rous or rather Cancerous substance, exangues.*

*The Spleen joyned with the left part of the bellow of the liver,
as if they were one body, very black, and hard outwardly, in-
wardly rotten.*

*The Gall large and full, but of a deeper Yellow, inclined to
red and black matter.*

In

In the cavity of the Breast or Thorax water of the same substance and colour near a Gallon:

The Lungs something thicker and more discoloured then usual.

The heart well.

The Bones very easily broken.

Colladon.

George Bate.

Goddard.

George Chabrey.

Physicians.

Charles Stamford

Thomas Page.

Chirurgians.

Besides the Apothecaries, and several other persons, who testified the same And are still ready to do the like.

Coll. Okey, Coll. Berkstead, and divers other Justices of the Peace, both at Hixes hall, and at the old Baley, did declare themselves that they were not satisfied either with the proceedings, or proof against this Peterson, that she was guilty of witchcraft, but that there was a design in it, relating to the prejudice of Mrs. Levingstone, which they are ready to testify to the Parliament when they shall be required thereunto.

FINIS.

In the early of the month of March or thereabouts of the same year
I have and about near a gallon.
The things something thicker and more discoloured than

The first one.
The second one was very thick.

Collator.
George B. ...
Coddard.
George Chapin.

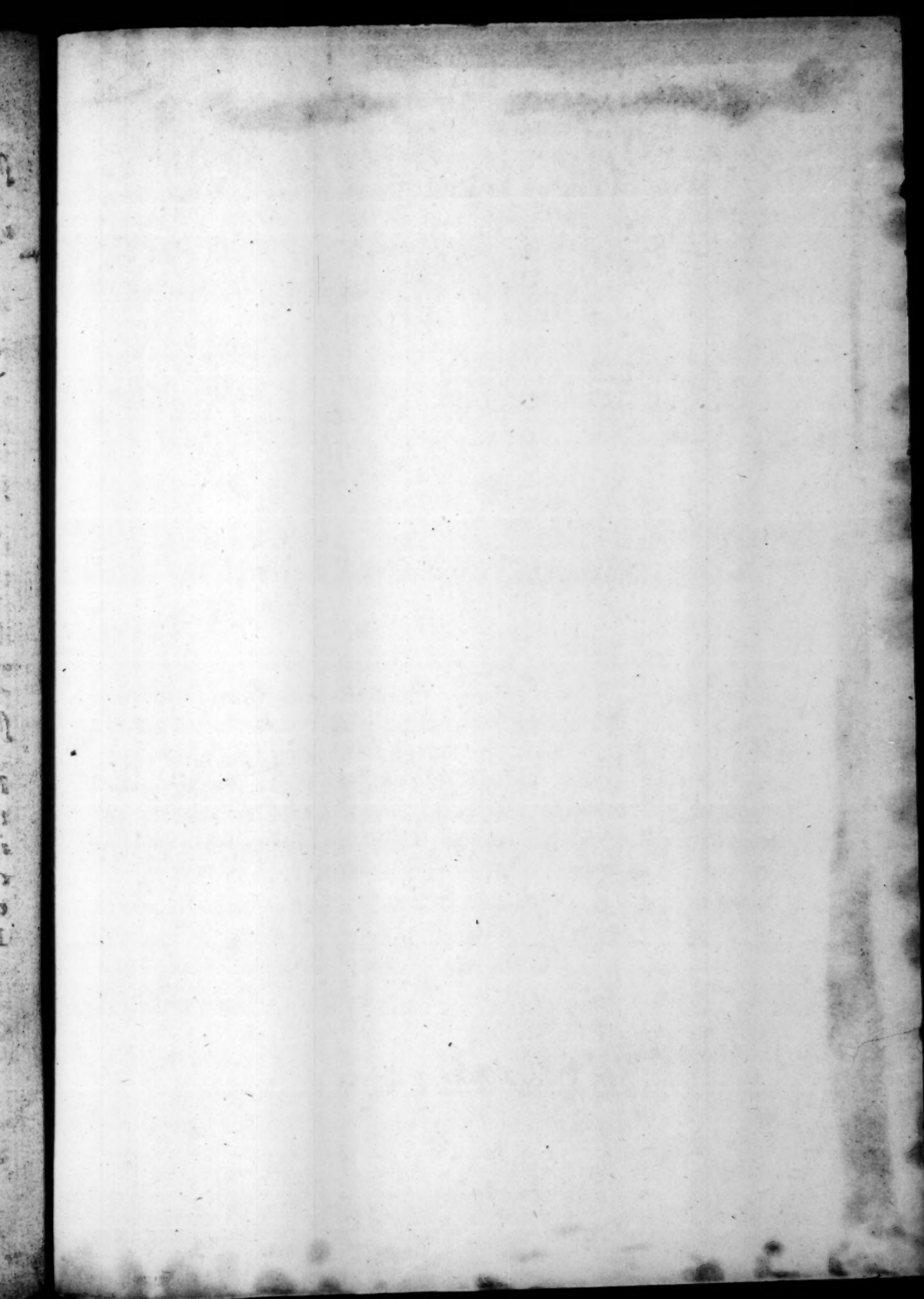
Charles Hammond & Chirurgical
Thomas Page

By John the Librarian, and several other persons who re-
sided in the same house as I did ready to do the like.
Cell. Okay, Col. Kirkland, and several other Justices of the
Peace, both at their hall, and at the old Hall, did declare
themselves that they were not satisfied with the proceed-
ings, or proceed against this person; that he was guilty of witch-
craft, but that there was a defect in it, relating to the pre-
sents of Mrs. Livingston, which they are ready to testify to the
Parliament when they shall be required thereunto.

3 3 7 2 FINIS.

1

3 3 1





R. L. 00.



